

To: Newsroom Directors and Assignment Editors

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Poultry Relocation Rates Reduced

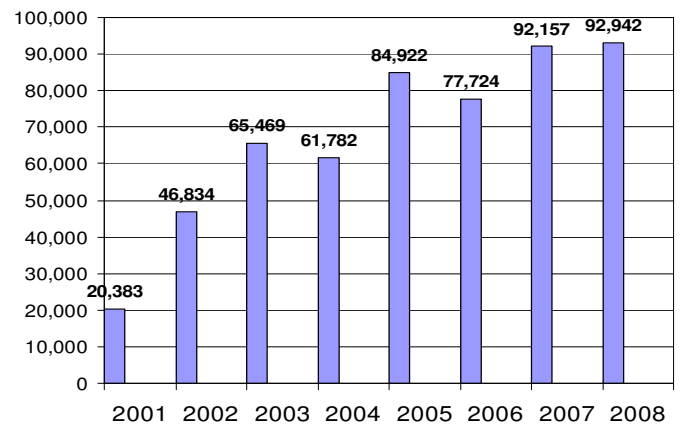
At the August 12 Delaware Nutrient Management Commission meeting, the Commission voted to reduce the rates for transporting excess poultry litter-manure. This action was taken in response to increased grower participation in the Manure Relocation Program and a higher demand for poultry litter at alternative markets without an available funding increase for the Program. The reduction is an overall 25% rate reduction and a three dollar cut in the cap. The rates changed from \$0.16 per ton mile for the transporter to \$0.12 per ton mile and the cap was reduced from \$18 to \$15. Program Administrator, Bill Rohrer said "The rates were decreased because the budget does not sustain the current demand and we feel that current markets for poultry litter-manure help pay for the transportation cost. The rate reduction will allow us to move more litter-manure for the same amount of money."



Rohrer said, "It costs an average of \$11.24 per ton to move about 93,000 tons of excess litter in 2008. The cost was over a million dollars and we can no longer cannibalize other parts of our program to pay for relocation. The cuts will continue to assist the market and balance our budget. Program funding includes state funds, federal funds and funds from the poultry companies operating in Delaware."

Poultry litter is regulated by the Nutrient Management Law to prevent over application and application at the wrong time of the year. Poultry litter-manure is exported from a farm with inadequate land or high Phosphorus levels and shipped to alternative markets. The alternative markets for excess litter are distant crop fields and Perdue AgriRecycle's fertilizer plant.

Relocation of Excess Poultry Litter-Manure
Since 2001 (in tons)



The relocation funds assisted in moving 92,942 tons of poultry litter in 2008 that could have been over applied in past years before the advent of the Manure Relocation Program.

Picture and graphic are available if you contact: anne.fitzgerald@state.de.us

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